



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

Release Date: August 31, 2005
Release Number: 05 – 287, FL-10137/10138

Contacts: Frank Adinolfi or Matt Young
Phone: 404-347-3771

SBA TO CLOSE THE WALTON COUNTY OFFICE SBA URGES RETURN YOUR SBA LOAN APPLICATION NOW

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will close its Walton County Disaster Outreach Center at close of business on Thursday, September 1. That means Hurricane Dennis victims in this area have just one day to get personal help with their SBA disaster loan applications, according to SBA Acting Disaster Area Director Frank Skaggs.

SBA disaster loan staff is still available to answer any questions you might have, help you complete your application and accept your completed application. The temporary office remains open in Walton County at the Coastal Branch Library, 336 Greenway Trail in Santa Rosa Beach, with hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., until Thursday, September 1 when it will cease operation at the close of business.

“Don’t wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. We want to be sure you get the help you need to recover from the disaster. We don’t want anyone to miss the September 8, application deadline for physical damages,” Skaggs said today.

According to Skaggs, most homeowners, renters, and business owners will find they are not fully covered for their damages and will need additional funds to complete repairs. “But we can’t help if you don’t complete and turn in your SBA disaster loan application,” said Skaggs.

SBA is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations that received damage during the disaster. For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grants.

Even insured victims of Hurricane Dennis should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and register for assistance. “This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs,” Skaggs added.

Information on SBA loan applications is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be returned to the center or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline to return applications for physical damage is September 8; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 10, 2006.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster
###

SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 2—One Baltimore Place, Suite 300—Atlanta, GA 30308